



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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**METHAMPHETAMINE SUPPLIER SENTENCED**

KANSAS CITY, Kan. -- United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Maximino Garcia**, 28, Kansas City, Kansas, was sentenced on April 6, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to **24 years and 4 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Garcia entered a guilty plea on January 5, 2004, to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Melgren stated that Garcia admitted at his plea that from December 31, 2001, through May 29, 2002, he conspired with others to distribute methamphetamine. Garcia was identified by law enforcement officers as a major supplier of methamphetamine in the Kansas City area. Evidence presented by the government proved that Garcia distributed approximately 34 pounds of methamphetamine to the "Mamma Meth" drug organization and others.

"Mamma Meth" was a thirteen month investigation by the FBI, KBI, and I-35/I-70 Drug Task Force of a large methamphetamine distribution ring operating in Saline County, Kansas, from May 2001 until June 2002. Fifteen people were indicted in that investigation, fourteen have entered guilty pleas on various drug charges. Thirteen have been sentenced, one is awaiting sentencing, and one is currently a fugitive.

Those sentenced on drug charges under the "Mamma Meth" case include:

- Michelle Brown, 33, Herington, Kansas, sentenced on May 12, 2003, to 144 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.

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- Kristina Ketchum, 31, Assaria, Kansas, sentenced on April 30, 2003, to 46 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.
- Manuel Blevins, 45, Salina, Kansas, sentenced on July 21, 2003, to 78 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.
- Thomas Brown, 37, Salina, Kansas, sentenced on April 21, 2003, to 168 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.
- Enrique Gonzalez, 24, Kansas City, Kansas, sentenced on April 28, 2003, to 37 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.
- Gilberto Hernandez-Gomez, 29, Kansas City, Kansas, sentenced on September 2, 2003, to 121 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.
- Milton Ruiz, 26, New Cambria, Kansas, was sentenced on June 23, 2003, to 135 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.
- Anjelica Kaker, 20, Salina, Kansas, was sentenced on June 16, 2003, to seven months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.
- Peter Gonzalez, 22, New Cambria, Kansas, was sentenced on March 6, 2003, to 54 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.
- Patrick Ketchum, 33, Assaria, Kansas, was sentenced on May 2, 2003, to 30 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.
- Kirby Jahnke, 32, Salina, Kansas, was sentenced on June 23, 2003, to 46 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.
- Brian Brown, 32, Herington, Kansas, was sentenced on May 2, 2003, to 30 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

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- Juan Farias, 23, Kansas City, Kansas, was sentenced on April 22, 2003, to 60

months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.

- Raul Alcantar, 32, Salina, Kansas, is currently awaiting sentencing on June 28, 2004.
- Juan Contreras is currently a fugitive.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the DEA Kansas City Airport Task Force, in cooperation with the FBI, in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheri McCracken in this prosecution.